

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00
NSC-05 OIC-01 PM-03 SP-02 SS-14 OES-02 DODE-00
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R 041803Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8825
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA AEWOR
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12472

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM UK CD
SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT:
UK VIEWS

1. MALLABY (HEAD OF FCO'S ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT DEPT) CALLED IN EMBOFF AUG 4 TO CONVEY BRITISH VIEWS ON CD ENLARGEMENT WHICH NOW HAVE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL APPROVAL. MALLABY ADDED UK WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES UNTIL U.S. REACTION RECEIVED.
2. NUMBERS. RECALLING UNSSOD AGREEMENT THAT CD WOULD BE ENLARGED BY ADDITION OF NUCLEAR POWERS PLUS "FIVE TO EIGHT" OTHERS, MALLABY SAID UK WOULD PREFER FEWER THAN EIGHT BUT BELIEVES ADDITION OF EIGHT IS INEVITABLE. MOREOVER, THE LARGER NUMBER WILL GIVE THE WEST MORE ELBOW ROOM TO LOBBY FOR THREE INSTEAD OF TWO WESTERN SEATS.

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3. MALLABY EXPECTS PRESSURE FROM THE NON-ALIGNED TO FILL MOST OF THE EIGHT PLACES, BUT BRITISH BELIEVE WEST SHOULD WORK HARD TO GAIN THREE SEATS TO INCLUDE ONE NATO COUNTRY, ONE NON-EUROPEAN BUT PRO-WESTERN COUNTRY, AND ONE EUROPEAN NEUTRAL. IF THE WEST GOES FOR ONLY TWO SEATS, IT IS LIKELY THE NATO CANDIDATE WILL BE DROPPED. IN THE END, WE MAY NOT OBTAIN THREE SEATS, BUT WE SHOULD BE

SEEN, HE SAYS, FIGHTING HARD FOR IT. (BRITISH IDEAS RE SPECIFIC CANDIDATES DISCUSSED PARA SIX BELOW.)

4. BRITISH PLAN TO ADVANCE FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS TO SUPPORT WESTERN CLAIM TO THREE SEATS:

-- IN DISARMAMENT-NEGOTIATING MACHINERY, PARTICIPATION BY MILITARILY-IMPORTANT STATES WITH EXPERTISE IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER STRICT GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION;

-- ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF CD APPLICANTS SO FAR ARE MEMBERS OF NATO OR WESTERN NEUTRALS;

-- ALL WARSAW PACT MEMBERS ALREADY PARTICIPATE IN CCD;

-- THE CD IS NOT A UN BODY (THIS ARGUMENT WILL BE USED SPARINGLY, DEPENDING ON THE AUDIENCE).

5. SITE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ENLARGEMENT. UK STRONGLY PREFERS TO CONSULT FIRST IN CAPITALS. MULTILATERAL CONSULTATION, UK BELIEVES, WILL ULTIMATELY BE NECESSARY, SINCE THE NUMEROUS NON-ALIGNED CANDIDATES, IN PARTICULAR, CANNOT BE HANDLED ON BILATERAL BASIS. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WILL ALSO CONTINUE IN GENEVA ON FRINGES OF CCD AND WITH UN MISSIONS OF NON-CCD STATES. UK IS OPPOSED TO CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK AT LEAST UNTIL ISSUE OF THIRD WESTERN (NATO) SEAT IS DECIDED UP OR DOWN. BRITISH UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NIGERIAN UN REP IS PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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POSING THE EIGHT NEW SEATS BE FILLED SIMPLY BY TWO CANDIDATES FROM EACH (UN) GEOGRAPHIC REGION, WHICH WILL BY DEFINITION EXCLUDE A NATO CANDIDATE. BRITISH HOPE TO MINIMIZE IMPACT OF SUCH THINKING BY AVOIDING NEW YORK CONSULTATIONS.

6. CHOICE OF STATES

A. NON-EUROPEAN BUT PRO-WESTERN. UK WILL SUPPORT AUSTRALIA AND EXPECTS GOA TO SUCCEED. UK POINTS OUT SOUTHWEST PACIFIC IS NOT NOW REPRESENTED IN CCD, GOA HAS EXPERTISE, AND AUSTRALIA WILL BE MAJOR URANIUM EXPORTER.

B. EUROPEAN NEUTRALS. UK BELIEVES SPAIN IS NOT A STRONG CONTENDER; BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE AUSTRIANS IN CD. UK EXPECTS SOVIETS (AND PROBABLY NON-ALIGNED) WILL GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO FINLAND, AND LATTER IS MOST LIKELY CHOICE.

C. NATO. UK SEES LITTLE DISARMAMENT EXPERTISE AVAILABLE FROM GREECE OR TURKEY AND IN ANY EVENT WOULD NOT WISH TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM. NORWAY, DENMARK, AND BELGIUM ARE ALL REALISTIC CANDIDATES AND BRITISH WOULD

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R 041803Z AUG 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12472

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HAPPILY ACCEPT ANY OF THEM. HOWEVER, ASSUMING FINLAND
IS SELECTED, THUS GIVING "NORDICS" A REPRESENTATIVE,
UK WOULD TEND TO SETTLE ON BELGIUM. (NOTE: UK VIEWS
ON NATO CANDIDATES ARE BEING GIVEN ONLY TO USG. PLEASE
PROTECT.) IN ANY CASE, UK WILL NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN
INTERNAL NATO SELECTION PROCESS.

D. LATIN AMERICA. BRITISH DO NOT WANT TO GIVE
SOVIETS ANY GROUNDS FOR ARGUMENT THAT WEST ACQUIESCES
IN CUBAN CANDIDACY. BRITISH WILL LET IT BE KNOWN THAT
CUBAN CANDIDACY IS A "FUNNY IDEA" IN LIGHT OF QUESTION-
ABLE CUBAN NON-ALIGNMENT. UK HOPES THAT NON-ALIGNED
THEMSELVES WILL RESIST CUBA. BRITISH ARE ALSO HOPING
TO BUILD UP VENEZUELA AS LATIN ALTERNATIVE.

E. AFRICA. BRITISH BELIEVE KENYA WOULD MAKE A
SOLID CONTRIBUTION TO CD AND WILL ENCOURAGE GOK TO BE AN
ACTIVE CANDIDATE. SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY PRESS FOR
ALGERIA; UK WILL REMAIN PASSIVE. (MOREOVER, IN UK VIEW
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IF SOVIET-SPONSORED FINLAND AND ALGERIA ARE ACCEPTED,
THERE WILL BE LESS PRESSURE TO ACCEPT CUBA.)

F. EAST ASIA. UK WILL DISCREETLY SUPPORT
INDONESIA AND SRI LANKA AS IMPORTANT AND INTERESTED
COUNTRIES AND BECAUSE ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS VIETNAM AND
AFGHANISTAN ARE UNACCEPTABLE.

IN SUMMARY, UK BELIEVES A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME ON THE
EIGHT NEW CD SEATS WOULD BE 1) AUSTRALIA, 2) FINLAND OR
AUSTRIA; 3) NORWAY, DENMARK, OR BELGIUM; 4) VENEZUELA;
5) KENYA; 6) ALGERIA; 7) INDONESIA, AND 8) SRI LANKA.

7. MALLABY CONFIRMED THAT HMG DOES NOT VIEW CD SELECTION
AS A UN MATTER, AND THAT UK THEREFORE WILL NOT AWAIT
REGIONAL CONSENSUS BEFORE MAKING ITS PREFERENCES KNOWN
IN MOST EFFECTIVE WAY.

8. MALLABY REPORTED THAT DURING EC-9 DISARMAMENT
EXPERTS MEETING LAST WEEK, HE HAD URGED THE NINE TO
SUPPORT ALLOCATION OF THREE NEW SEATS TO WESTERN CANDI-
DATES, AND TO HOLD INITIAL CONSULTATIONS ELSEWHERE
THAN IN NEW YORK. ALL HAD AGREED EXCEPT FRANCE. THIS
8-1 SPLIT REMAINED WHEN TOPIC WAS RECONSIDERED BY
POLITICAL DIRECTORS. MALLABY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT
UK WOULD NOT DISCUSS ITS DETAILED VIEWS ON CD ENLARGEMENT
WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS PENDING U.S. REACTION TO FOE-
GOING.

9. FINALLY, MALLABY UNDERSTANDS U.S. MAY SEND EXPERTS
TO DISCUSS CD MATTERS WITH SOVIETS, PERHAPS TO MOSCOW
OR GENEVA. IF SO, MALLABY INVITES THEM TO CONSULT IN
LONDON EN ROUTE FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT REACTION TO UK VIEWS
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